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WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 30, 2020

\$3

Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.

Tomorrow's weather 37 | 29



Pulse
of Wabash

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Living Well in Wabash County announces holiday season changes

All programs and services will be closed at 1 p.m. New Year's Eve, Thursday, Dec. 31, and all-day New Year's Day Friday, Jan. 1. Other than closing for holidays, Transit Dispatch – which can be

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CVS Health begins vaccinations at long-term care facilities

ISDH reports four new Wabash County deaths since Saturday

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Saturday, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) reported the 40th COVID-19 death in Wabash County. And on Tuesday, the ISDH reported the 41st, 42nd and 43rd local deaths.

Though the ISDH's data reflects community spread of COVID-19 in Wabash County remains elevated, it has once again edged slightly down since the week before. However, the county's rating remains in the orange or second-highest category. The ISDH dashboard was updated with results as of 11:59 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28. The county metrics map is updated at noon Wednesdays and reflects

data through the previous Sunday. After health care workers began receiving COVID-19 vaccinations at locations around the state earlier this month, CVS Health has begun vaccinations at long-term care facilities in the state this week. On Tuesday, Peabody Retirement Community executive director Rod Craft said they will begin administering the first dose of the two-

part COVID-19 vaccination at their facility beginning Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021 and Sunday, Jan 3, 2021. During a televised press conference Tuesday, Dec. 22, Gov. Eric J. Holcomb announced that he would be extending the mission of the Indiana National Guard at long-term care facilities through the end of February. In November, state officials announced more than 1,300 members of Indiana's

National Guard were being deployed to the 133 hardest-hit long-term care centers to assist with infection control practices like improved COVID-19 testing for facility residents and employees, according to the Associated Press. That support – meant, in part, to relieve health care staff – was then expanded to all 534 nursing homes in Indiana over the

See VACCINATIONS, page A10

Christmas week toy drive a success years in the making

Boxes of toys held in storage in Old Wabash City Hall basement

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The Christmas week toy drive which concluded last week was, in a roundabout way, more than eight years in the making.

On Monday, Babe of Wabash County founder Katey Till said during the four days the drive was open from Monday, Dec. 21 to Thursday, Dec. 24, the drive ended up serving approximately 349 children and 132 families.

"Oh, my gosh it was super incredible," said Till.

Till said they had several people walk through their doors near the Wabash County Courthouse on Hill Street "who said they just lost their jobs in the past couple weeks."

"People were near tears. They had their heads bowed down in shame. It was so sad," said Till. "We just reassured them they were doing the right thing. That's exactly what this is for. There is no shame. Getting Christmas presents for your kids, that's important. It's not their fault they lost their job or whatever the circumstances are."

Till said once they had made it through the drive, "the majority of the people who came in were so sincere and thankful."

"Many people looked



Provided photo

Volunteers moved the boxes of toys from the basement of the Old Wabash City Hall building to Babe of Wabash County.

stressed and unsure of what was going on," said Till.

Till's 10-year-old daughter, Daisy, checked people in at the front door and as-

signed points to each family based on how many children they had.

"We tried to get the ages of the kids," said Till. "You

could see as they were telling them the anxiety went away. It was beautiful."

See TOY DRIVE, page A10

Local leaders support newly-signed \$900B COVID-19 relief package

Walorski one of only a few dozen House Republicans to vote for \$2K direct payments

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

After days of delay, President Donald Trump signed H.R. 133, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, late Sunday.

Both of Indiana's Republican Sens. Mike Braun and Todd Young, along with Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Indiana, had voted in favor of the bipartisan \$900 billion COVID-19 relief bill last week.

Local impacts

On Wednesday, Dec. 23, Grow Wabash County CEO and president Keith Gillenwater said he felt the package would have a direct impact on local businesses.

"Setting aside philosophy about tax dollars and how they are utilized, I am glad to see some changes and programs that I think can

help our community," said Gillenwater.

Gillenwater said re-funding the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) "that helped so many of our small businesses in 2019 is a good thing."

"I see some tweaks have been made to the program

See SUPPORT, page A4

Holiday travelers face hazardous weather outlook

Rain, ice, snow, sleet, wintry mix forecast for region through New Year's Day

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Holiday travelers have more headaches than usual this year.

Despite the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) recorded 1,284,599 travelers passed through their checkpoints on Sunday alone, making it the busiest day of air travel since March.

Gas prices have been spiking recently as the national gas price average has jumped six cents to \$2.22 as of Monday, Dec. 21, said AAA spokesperson Molly Hart. Gas prices in the Fort Wayne metro area have jumped nearly 30 cents per gallon, from an average of \$1.92 a month ago to \$2.21.

And you can now add hazardous weather conditions in the region through the start of 2021 to that list.

Hazardous weather outlook

On Monday, the National Weather Service (NWS) in Northern Indiana issued a hazardous weather outlook for several counties in northwest Ohio and northern Indiana including Whitley, Allen, White, Miami, Wabash, Huntington, Wells, Adams and Grant.

A wintry mix with light ice and snow accumulations was anticipated for Tuesday evening and "will likely be impacted for the Wednesday morning commute."

Rainfall from Tuesday night into Friday is expected to be between 1 and 2 inches and is likely to bring rises on rivers, possibly causing some of them to reach flood stage by this weekend.

On Monday, NWS Northern Indiana meteorologist Nathan Marsili said this first storm wouldn't be a

See WEATHER, page A10

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Frances Slocum Chapter of the DAR to hold monthly meeting

The Wabash County Frances Slocum Chapter of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021 at the Grandstaff Hentgen Activity Room, 1241 Manchester Ave., according to regent Barbara Amiss.

The program will be given by Junior Membership Committee vice-chair Kathryn Stephens.

Amiss said prospective members and guests are always welcome to attend. DAR membership is open to any woman 18 years of age, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Those having questions about their family history lineage information may visit www.dar.org or call Linda Thompson

at 260-563-4661 or Amiss at 260-982-4376.

City Hall closed Friday for New Year's Day

Wabash City Hall and all city offices will be closed on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 in observance of the new year, according to Mayor Scott Long's assistant Bev Vanderpool.

The offices will reopen at 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.

Christian examples and warnings

In times of trouble, it's always the most vulnerable who suffer the worst," Archbishop Bashar Warda, Chaldean Catholic archbishop of Erbil, Iraq, said just before Thanksgiving, at a mostly virtual global conference focusing on persecuted Christians

Kathryn Lopez



and other religious minorities around the globe. Warda does not speak to Westerners as a beggar, but as a realist. It's a reality that we are in some part responsible for.

Speaking of Iraq, where Christians and other minorities have experienced extreme persecution, Warda said: "International war was followed by civil war, followed by violence and persecution and displacement, followed by even more violent war and then genocide ..."

And the list went on. "It pains me greatly to say this," Warda continued, "but I must be honest with you. We Christians of Iraq are now down to our last remnant people: less than 250,000 by all counts, and should the world forget us in this time, it's quite likely that we will have disappeared by the time the world chooses to look upon us again."

That's a daunting thought, as Christians have been in Iraq for thousands of years. That said, they are still there right now, and they are

fighting to stay there.

They are not asking us to fix the situation for them, but they are asking us to care.

I'm always struck by the gratitude that Iraqi Christians have for those who do pay attention to their plight. And there is also a kind of optimism, despite their circumstances: Not long after Warda's remarks, news broke that Pope Francis will visit Iraq in the new year. That's potentially a game changer for the Christians and other persecuted religious minorities there.

Since the beginning of his papacy, Pope Francis has been talking about the fact that there are more persecuted Christians in the world now than in the early years of Christianity. That's a huge responsibility for we Christians who are free to express our faith.

It's also why our religious-freedom conflicts here at home matter in bigger ways that we may realize. When the religious order the Little Sisters of the Poor have to go to the Supreme Court to defend their conscience rights not once, but twice, and when the government has used the Coronavirus pandemic to place arbitrary and irrational restrictions on places of worship, we should be alarmed and vigilant.

The most alarming thing Archbishop Warda said was about the United States. After chronicling all the people fighting for religious freedom around the world, he said he is not alone in being frightened watching

what's happening in our country. The persecuted look to us "for leadership and stability, but it's getting harder to do so. They see "a deeply fractured country" and this year, "acts of destruction and physical attacks on religious symbols and institutions." These are not "simply random events," Warda said. From his "bitter experience," they are "calling cards for a far greater danger that lies at the end of this dark path. We worry greatly about what is to come."

We are part of a marvelous experiment in pluralism here in the United States, making us a beacon of freedom to the world. We owe it to our God, our Founders and all the persecuted people around the world at this very moment to be better stewards of the gifts entrusted to us.

"It is always the most vulnerable who suffer the worst," Warda repeated. "We Christians of Iraq hope that the political situation in the U.S. will follow a peaceful and stable process." Let's move forward as better citizens with Warda's warning in mind as motivation, and the courage of the persecuted serving as inspiration.

Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review magazine and author of the new book "A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living." She is also chair of Cardinal Dolan's pro-life commission in New York. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.

In a year of pain, one silver lining: fewer mass shootings

By LISA MARIE PANE

Associated Press

If there's one silver lining in a year marred by a deadly pandemic, civil unrest, and economic and political turmoil, it's this: The number of mass shootings that happened in public was the lowest in more than a decade.

Experts who research mass killings say there are two key reasons for the sharp drop-off. For one, most people avoided going out in public during coronavirus lockdowns, which meant fewer opportunities for slayings in workplaces or schools. For another, Americans were so focused on other tragedies that would-be gunmen were less likely to consider carrying out attacks.

A database compiled by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University that tracks mass killings — defined as four or more dead, not including the shooter — back to 2006 showed just two public mass shootings this year. Both happened before the lockdowns took hold.

The first mass shooting of the year was on Feb. 26, when an employee at a brewery in Milwaukee killed five co-workers before killing himself. The other occurred on March 15, when a man killed four people in Springfield, Missouri, before killing himself.

Since then? Not one.

James Alan Fox, a criminologist and professor at Northeastern University, said he hopes the lull will help break the cycle of the past few years and help tamp down on mass shootings. The so-called "contagion effect" suggests that the more we hear about and talk about mass slayings, the more gun-

men fixate on carrying out attacks.

At the same time, in the midst of a pandemic that has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans, people who might otherwise feel compelled to wreak such carnage may not feel quite as persecuted or alone in experiencing hardships, he said.

"The thing about mass shooters is they tend to be people who feel that they are the victims of injustice. Well, lots of people now are suffering, not just them," Fox said. "It's hard to say right now that your own plight is unique or unfair. It may not feel good, but there's certainly reason for it. And it's not because of something someone's doing to you. It's really the pandemic, which is a thing not a person."

Besides the two public mass shootings this year, the AP/USA Today/Northeastern database tracked 10 family mass slayings, eight of which were shootings. Three mass killings were carried out in the course of other crimes, and six attacks that happened for unknown reasons. Of those six, one may end up being classified as a public mass shooting — a Juneteenth block party in Charlotte, North Carolina, that was rocked by gunfire that killed four people.

The change in the number of public mass shootings is the most stark. In 2019 and 2018, there were nine and 10 such shootings, respectively.

In many ways, it's surprising to experts given that, over the past year, people spent more time online, sometimes in the dark corners of the internet, and possibly feeling depressed or hopeless. Firearm purchases also reached levels never before seen.

"All of these risk factors are

going up, but yet we're not seeing the mass shootings," said Jillian Peterson, an associate professor of criminology and criminal justice at Hamline University and a forensic psychologist who previously worked in New York crafting psychological profiles of convicted murderers facing the death penalty.


While the drop-off in high-profile shootings is heartening, experts who track gun violence note that other shootings appear to have risen this year: gang violence, drive-by shootings and other random firearm deaths. Suicides involving a gun appear in line with previous years, according to data compiled by the Gun Violence Archive.

The GVA, which monitors media and police reports to track gun violence, defines mass shootings as those involving four or more people who were shot, regardless of whether they died. Under that definition, the group's research shows a spike in shootings, with about 600 so far this year. That's more than any of the previous six years since the GVA began tracking gun violence.


However, the overall decline in mass killings is "almost a natural experiment for the test of the role of the contagion factor," said James Densley, a criminologist and professor at Metropolitan State University in Minnesota who studies mass shootings. "At the moment, we've got this pause, this break that we're in, and that has the potential to really stop this cycle."

If another mass shooting occurs when the nation reopens, "and it becomes a big thing again, there's a risk that sort of restarts the cycle all over again," he said.


5-Day Weather Summary




Wednesday
Showers Likely
50 / 30




Thursday
Snow Showers Likely
37 / 29



Friday
Showers Likely
57 / 37




Saturday
Mostly Cloudy
41 / 28




Sunday
Mostly Cloudy
39 / 27

Sun and Moon


Today's sunset 5:28 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 8:03 a.m.




Last
1/6



New
1/13



First
1/20



Full
1/28

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see cloudy skies with an 85% chance of showers, high temperature of 50°, humidity of 89%. South wind 11 to 17 mph. Expect cloudy skies tonight with an 85% chance of showers, overnight low of 29°. West wind 6 to 11 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 25°.

Senate GOP blocks swift vote on Trump's \$2K checks

By LISA MASCARO and JILL COLVIN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Tuesday blocked Democrats' push to immediately bring President Donald Trump's demand for bigger \$2,000 COVID-19 relief checks up for a vote, saying the chamber would "begin a process" to address the issue.

Pressure is mounting on the Republican-led Senate to follow the House, which voted overwhelmingly on Monday to meet the president's demand to increase the checks from \$600 as the virus crisis worsens. A growing number of Republicans, including two senators in runoff elections on Jan. 5 in Georgia, have said they will support the larger amount. But most GOP senators oppose more spending, even if they are also wary of bucking Trump.

The outcome is highly uncertain heading into the rare holiday-week session. "There's one question

left today: Do Senate Republicans join with the rest of America in supporting \$2,000 checks?" Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said as he made a motion to vote.

McConnell, who has said little publicly on Trump's request, objected but gave almost no indication of his plans ahead.

"The Senate will begin a process," the GOP leader said. He said he plans to bring the president's demand for the \$2,000 checks and other remaining issues "into focus."

The showdown has thrown Congress into a chaotic year-end session just days before new lawmakers are set to be sworn into office for the new year. It's preventing action on another priority — overturning Trump's veto on a sweeping defense bill that has been approved every year for 60 years.

The president's last-minute push for bigger checks deeply divides Republicans, who are split between those

who align with Trump's populist instincts and those who adhere to what had been more traditional conservative views against government spending. Congress had settled on smaller \$600 payments in a compromise over the big year-end relief bill Trump reluctantly signed into law.

Liberal senators led by Bernie Sanders of Vermont who support the relief aid are blocking action on the defense bill until a vote can be taken on Trump's demand for \$2,000 for most Americans.

"The working class of this country today faces more economic desperation than at any time since the Great Depression of the 1930s," Sanders said as he also tried to force a vote on the relief checks. "Working families need help now." But McConnell objected a second time.

The GOP blockade may not be sustainable in the face of Trump's demands and as senators face the constituents at home.

Christmas bombing marks another dark day for Nashville

By KIMBERLEE KRUESI and BOBBY CAINA CALVAN

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — When Sandy and Geff Lee finally saw a photo of the building that was home to their Nashville boutique on the day after the Christmas morning bombing, a quiet came over the room.

The rubble was overwhelming. Debris shadowed familiar details. Geff Lee pulled up a map to verify they were looking in the right place.

"That moment? It was silence. It was an eye-opener," Sandy Lee said, owner of Ensemble. "It was blown up."

The Christmas Day explosion has sparked shock across the country after a bomb detonated in the heart of Nashville's historic downtown and killed the bomber, injured three other people and damaged dozens of buildings.

Yet for those who call Music City home, the bombing feels like a cruel capstone to an already dark year.

"It won't be the same," Sandy Lee said. "You can't rebuild that."

In early March, a massive tornado rumbled through the city — uprooting homes, destroying businesses and kill-

ing two dozen people.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, shuttering businesses as people stayed home and the virus spread rapidly. Some people who lost their homes in the tornado saw their jobs disappear.

Things have steadily worsened over the course of the year. The post-Thanksgiving resurgence left Tennessee with among the highest number of cases per capita as state leaders remained hesitant to impose statewide mandatory restrictions. And while the city is known as a health care hub, Nashville's hospitals have strained to keep up with the stream of COVID-19 patients that have been rushed from all corners of the state.

Those weren't the only setbacks. Some downtown businesses experienced property damage in late May during a peaceful protest that turned violent in response to racial injustice and police brutality.

Many structures in the tornado's path remain broken and tangled to this day, a reminder of a bad wound slow to heal.

State and local officials shake their heads in dismay that a city that had been flying high on an economic boom for years managed to


pack in so many tragedies in just 12 months.

Nashville Mayor John Cooper recently described 2020 as the city's "hardest year."

"We're getting through the tornado, then COVID. And then this. Just when you start to see the light, it's taken away in two seconds," said Pete Gibson, whose tattoo parlor was just across the street from the site of the Christmas Day explosion.

Businesses along Second Avenue, a narrow-tree lined street where the explosion took place, had found a thriving location with a ready-made tourist market in the Civil War-era buildings over the years. The explosion took place just off Lower Broadway, the flashy business thoroughfare known for its bright lights and honky-tonks, on a slightly quieter street that beckoned those looking for refuge from the noise and bustle of the main drag.

More than 40 structures were damaged by the blast. Because of the active investigation, which has drawn hundreds of federal officials to sweep though the broken glass, bricks and other debris left by the blast, business owners have not been able to return — not even to survey the damage.



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Talk to us

Linda Kelsay, Publisher
lkelsay@wabashplaineader.com

Rob Burgess, Editor
rburgess@wabashplaineader.com

Travis Campbell, Advertising Director
tcampbell@pmginni.com

Main number: 260-563-2131

Newsroom
260-563-2131
news@wabashplaineader.com

Website
www.wabashplaineader.com

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Obituaries

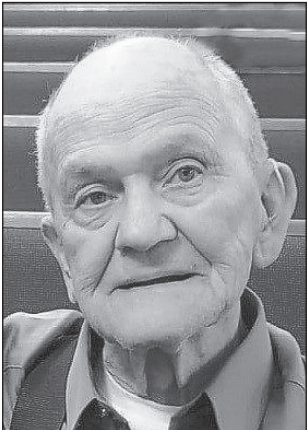
Jack O’Day Sparks

Feb. 9, 1939 – Dec. 26, 2020

Jack O’Day Sparks, 81, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 5:18 pm, Saturday, December 26, 2020 at his daughter’s home in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was born February 9, 1939 in Morehead, Kentucky, to Levi and Mary Dale (Conley) Sparks.

Jack married Shirley Ann Sparks in Wabash on June 25, 1961; she died February 10, 2019. He retired from General Tire in Wabash. Jack was a member of the Wabash Free Will Baptist Church. He was an avid Kentucky Wildcat fan, and enjoyed squirrel and raccoon hunting.

He is survived by three children, John Carl “J.C.” (Vanessa) Sparks of Warsaw, Indiana, Jacqueline (Ted) Brown of Fort Wayne, and James E. (Maureen) Sparks of Wabash, five grandchildren, Ashley Sparks of Warsaw, Andrew (Alexis) Sparks of Milford, Indiana, Brandon Brown of Fort Wayne, Daisy Sparks and Duke Sparks, both of Wabash, two great-granddaughters, Addyson Brown of Fort Wayne, and Willow Sparks of Milford, five sisters, Margaret Brooks of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, Elizabeth Chaney of Morehead, Kentucky, Ruth Baldrige of Wabash, Bessie (Gene) Cooper of Vanceburg, Kentucky, and Ellen Glover of Morehead, brother, Ora Lee (Jane) Sparks of Boaz, Ala-



bama, two brothers-in-law, Fred Brown of Morehead, Kentucky, and Paul Coldiron of Miamisburg, Ohio. He was also preceded in death by his parents, daughter, Justina W. Sparks, 4 brothers, and 3 sisters.

Funeral services will be 1:00 pm on Thursday, December 31, 2020, at Wabash Free Will Baptist, 1056 Erie Street, Wabash, with Evangelist Tod Masters officiating. Burial will be in Gardens of Memory Cemetery, Marion. Friends may call 11:30 am – 1:00 pm Thursday, at the church. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

Preferred memorial is Wabash Free Will Baptist Church.

The memorial guest book for Jack may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Doris Jean Tucker

Jan. 23, 1928 – Dec. 24, 2020

Doris Jean Tucker, 92, of rural Lagro, Indiana, died at 2:17 pm, Thursday, December 24, 2020 at Bickford Cottage in Wabash, Indiana. She was born January 23, 1928 in Saint Marys, Ohio, to Lewis and Kathryn (Gorham) Harmon.

Doris was a Wabash High School graduate and attended Beauty College. She married William G. Tucker in Wabash, Indiana. She retired from General Tire in Wabash. Doris was a member of the New Song Church in Wabash. She was an avid Christian woman, and enjoyed reading her Bible, sewing, cooking, and working puzzles.

She is survived by her husband, William G. Tucker of Lagro, son, William Thomas “Tom” (Shelly Rogers) Tucker of North Manchester, Indiana, two grandchildren, Austin Thomas Tucker of



Wabash, and Morgan Ann (Max) Mattern of Roanoke, Indiana, and four sisters, Onolee Wertenberger of Huntington, Indiana, Edith Allen of Northglen, Colorado, Janice Lindsey of Springfield, Missouri, and Lola Harmon of Lagro. She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, and two sisters.

Funeral services will be private at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Pastor Tony Mercer officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Friends may call 4-6 pm Wednesday, at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are Wabash County Cancer Society or Parkview Home Healthcare and Hospice.

The memorial guest book for Doris may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

G. Kent Smith

Sept. 30, 1942 – Dec. 22, 2020

G. Kent Smith, 78, Plainfield, Indiana passed away at 9:00 p.m. on the 22nd day of December, 2020.

He is survived by brother Mark, sister-in-law Nancy (Ring), nephews Nathaniel and Caleb, and niece Allison, all of North Manchester, Indiana; aunt Mary Ellen Royer, Fort Wayne, Indiana; and numerous cousins.

A memorial service will be held at the McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road 114 West, North Manchester, Indiana on Saturday, January 9th, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. with calling beginning at 12:00 p.m. Burial will be held at Oaklawn Cemetery, 600 Beckley Street, North Manchester, Indiana, following the memorial service.

Herman O. ‘Hoss’ Staton

May 1, 1942 – Dec. 27, 2020

Herman O. “Hoss” Staton, 78, of rural Akron, Indiana, died at 7:07 pm, Sunday, December 27, 2020 at his home, surrounded by his family. He was born on May 1, 1942 in Owingsville, Kentucky, to Buren Staton and Mary (Withrow) Purvis, and was raised by his step-father Ewell Purvis and mother, Mary Purvis.

Herman married Ethel Louise Little in Owingsville, Kentucky on October 27, 1961. He owned and operated Staton Painting. Herman was a member of The Breath in Akron. He enjoyed spending time with his family, going to their activities, and worshiping his Lord.

He is survived by his wife, Ethel Louise Staton of Akron, four children, Pama (George) Poe of Akron, Herman D. (Carrie) Staton of Laketon, Indiana, Michelle (Dale) Neal of Chapel Hill, Tennessee, and Amya Staton of Akron, nine grandchildren, Cassie Staton and Marissa Staton, both of Laketon, Nick (Kala) Poe of Wabash, Polly Coleman of Macy, Indiana, Amber (Chris) Moyer and Hailey (Nate) Morton, both of Claypool, April Shaffer of Wabash, Shana Suttles of Indianapolis, Indiana,



and Michael (Rana) Poe of North Manchester, Indiana, 19 great-grandchildren, sister, Anna Goldy of Carlyle, Kentucky, and brother, Kenny (Judy) Purvis of Florida. He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, and one sister.

Funeral services will be 2:00 pm on Thursday, December 31, 2020, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service – 335 S. Chippewa Rd., Roann, with Pastor Jacob Good officiating. Burial will be in Roann Community Cemetery, Roann. Friends may call 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, Thursday at the funeral home.

The memorial guest book for Hoss may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Harold Ray Coots

Dec. 3, 1938 – Dec. 25, 2020

Harold Ray Coots, 82, of rural Wabash, Indiana, died at 6:00 am, Friday, December 25, 2020 at his son’s home in Wabash. He was born on Saturday, December 3, 1938 in Eolia, Kentucky, to Riley and Maude (Boggs) Coots.

Harold was a 1958 graduate of Whitesburg High School, in Whitesburg, Kentucky. He married Beulah Sturgill in Whitesburg, on August 16, 1958. He retired from Celotex in Lagro in 2000, after more than 40 years. Harold enjoyed going to casinos, traveling, and vacationing on cruise ships.

He is survived by his wife, Beulah Coots and son, Eddy Coots, both of Wabash, two grandsons, Lance Allen (Cassandra) Coots of Lansing, Michigan, and Blake (Katie) Coots of Indianapolis, Indiana, two great-grandchildren, Isaiah and Leylanni; brother,



Jack (Lovetta) Coots of Indianapolis, Indiana, and his sister, Grace Short of Mayking, Kentucky. He was preceded in death by his parents, six brothers, Dewey, Ralph, Elmo, Ronnie, Worley, and Alonzo Coots, and three sisters, Oma Holland, Mildred Mullins, and Jewell Coots.

Funeral services will be 10:00 am on Wednesday, December 30, 2020, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Rev. Charles Osborne officiating. Entombment will be in the Chapel of Remembrance Mausoleum, at Memorial Lawns Cemetery in Wabash. Friends may call 3-6 pm Tuesday, at the funeral home.

Preferred memorial is Epilepsy Foundation.

The memorial guest book for Harold may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Violet June Kline

June 30, 1935 – Dec. 28, 2020

Violet June Kline, 85, North Manchester, Indiana, formerly of Fort Wayne, Indiana, died December 28, 2020. Violet was born June 30, 1935 in Laketon, Indiana, to Ray L. and Opal F. (Simpson) Kline.

Violet is survived by her brothers, Bennett Kline, Kenneth (Ethel Mae) Kline, and Edward, Kline; sisters,

Ruby Utter, Pearl (Jerry) Davis, and Dorothy (Wayne) Leighan.

A graveside service will be held Thursday, December 31, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at Laketon Cemetery, Country 200 West and 950 North, Laketon, Indiana.

The family of Violet Kline has entrusted McKee Mortuary with final arrangements.

John Arthur Siferd

May 10, 1924 – Dec. 28, 2020

John Arthur Siferd, 96, of rural Wabash, Indiana, went to be with his Lord, at 5:28 am, Monday, December 28, 2020 at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne. He was born May 10, 1924 in Logansport, Indiana, to Glenn O. and Beulah (Bowen) Siferd.

John was a 1944 graduate of Logansport High School and a WWII US Army veteran. He married Charlotte Metcalfe in Grand Rapids, Michigan on October 9, 1948; she died May 20, 2017. He worked 28 years for General Telephone Company retiring in 1975, and also farmed. John was a member of the Wabash Alliance Church and formerly attended Bachelor Creek Church of Christ. He and Charlotte wintered several years in Zephyrhills, Florida.

He is survived by his daughter, Cheryl M. (Tim) Kreider of Wabash, two



grandchildren, William “Bill” (Natalie) Kreider of Fishers, Indiana, and Christiane M. (Jason) Soultz of Noblesville, Indiana, and five great grandchildren, Sophia Kreider, Andrew Kreider, Alice Kreider, Hayden Soultz, and Joanna Soultz. He was also preceded in death by his parents, brother, Glen J. Siferd, and two sisters, Jean Henry and Velma Minnick.

Funeral services will be private at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Rev. Todd Render officiating. Burial will be in Matlock Cemetery, Wabash. There will be a Celebration of John’s life for family and friends, at a later date.

Preferred memorial is Wabash Alliance Church.

The memorial guest book for John may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Norma Jean ‘Jeanie’ Barrus

Dec. 10, 1928 – Dec. 26, 2020

Norma Jean “Jeanie” Barrus, 92, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 10:29 am, Saturday, December 26, 2020 at Rolling Meadows Healthcare Center in LaFontaine. She was born on December 10, 1928 in Wabash, Indiana, to Glen and Velma (Clark) Hohl.

Norma worked as a nurse’s aide for Wabash Healthcare, Americare, and at Pleasant View Nursing Home for 16 years. She married Russell Edward Barrus in North Manchester, Indiana on July 20, 1946; he died February 14, 1988. Norma attended the Washington Street Wesleyan Church in Wabash. She was a volunteer for Wabash County Hospital. Norma enjoyed helping elderly people, watching television, and reading.

She is survived by three sons, Glenn Barrus of Wabash, Tim (Pamela) Bar-



rus of Madisonville, Tennessee, and Tom (Cynthia) Barrus of Prestonsburg, Kentucky, 12 grandchildren, several great and great-great-grandchildren, and her sister, Shirley Cloud of Wabash. She was also preceded in death by her parents, and daughter-in-law, Cindy Barrus.

Funeral services will be 2:00 pm on Wednesday, December 30, 2020, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Pastor Michael Scorsone officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Friends may call 1:00 – 2:00 pm, Wednesday at the funeral home.

Preferred memorial is WWII Memorial.

The memorial guest book for Norma may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Lois Virginia (Haynes) Miller

Nov. 17, 1926 – Dec. 27, 2020

Lois Virginia (Haynes) Miller, 94, of Wabash, passed away at 7:15 p.m. on Sunday, December 27, 2020 at Rolling Meadows Health and Rehabilitation in LaFontaine. She was born on November 17, 1926, in Wabash County, to the late George F. and Pearl (Milliner) Haynes.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thurs-

day, December 31, 2020 at McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Avenue, Wabash. Burial will follow at the LaFontaine IOOF Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be directed to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com.

Betty J. Bilodeau

Services for Betty J. Bilodeau, 91, of Wabash, were 1:00 pm, Monday, December 28, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash. Ryan Keim officiated and Susan Vanlandingham was the musician. Memo-

ries shared by family and friends. Pallbearers were David Driscoll, Adam Driscoll, Alex Driscoll, Bryce Kendall, Kiana Kendall, and Tim Breuning. Burial was in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash.

By ROXANE MANN

Trust, something that seems hard to come by nowadays. Trust can be achieved with some hard work and a pinch of effort. When I think about what trust means, it brings the word faith to my mind. We have faith that when we go out to our car and turn the key, that it is going to start for us, and when it doesn’t we are surprised and a bit disturbed at the disruption of time.

Yet if I were to ask you if you trust God? What would your answer be? Most would say “yes” right away without really giving it some thought. You see, right now in this world, we are going through some hard times. People are struggling to put food on the table and others are just giving up altogether. Where is God in all this we may think to ourselves? I

can assure you that God knows perfectly what is going on in the world.

David Wilkerson prophesied about a great plague that would come to the world and would shake New York City like never before. May we agree in prayer with the prophecy given by David Wilkerson in 1986. He said, “I see a plague coming on the world, and the bars, churches and government will be shut down. The plague will hit New York City and shake it as it has never been shaken. The plague is going to force prayerless believers into radical prayer and their Bibles, and repentance will be the cry from the man of God in the pulpit. And out of it will come a third Great Awakening that will sweep America and the world.”

We must pray Psalm 113:3 and Malachi 1:11,

Power is released in the atmosphere when we preach, pray, and sing God’s Word back to Him. He loves for us to tell him what His word says.

In this time, it’s the churches who need to repent, far from being a family of God. There has been sin in the pulpit and sin in the pews. We have played church so long we have forgotten what a real move of God feels like and looks like. I know we don’t live by our emotions or feelings, but I tell you I remember when I have felt the anointing of God so strong that I could hardly stand. I wait for that again and I pray for that again. I trust it is coming and I trust that God is moving no matter how it looks around us, never forget that God is everywhere. He is there when you close your eyes, and He is there when you open them. There is so

much beauty around even though it is a bleak time for many.

The Bible says to gives thanks for everything (1 Thess. 5:18) many people right now do not feel like giving thanks. They have lost their jobs, can’t pay the bills and see no end to the nightmare they are in. But can I tell you there is coming and end, it may not be what you want but it is coming? You see I do believe that we are on the verge of the greatest awakening the church and others have ever seen before. It will put all others to shame in the size and magnitude. But I believe that Jesus is coming soon too very soon! I can’t help but believe that this plague -a virus is the pestilence talked about in the Bible. We are living in the greatest time ever and if you trust the Lord and put your trust in the Lord, he

promises you freedom and no condemnations.

Christ rose again from the tomb just like we too who love Him and put our complete Faith, Trust, Hope in Him will live again, we will stand in the new earth with Him. I put my trust in him and I know He will take us through anything.

Psalms 42:5 Why are you cast down, oh my inner self? And why should you move over me in? Hoping God and wait expectantly for him, for I shall yet praise him, my health, and my God. If you’ve ever felt discouraged You’re Not Alone David it too but David didn’t allow discouragement to keep him down. When he felt that way, David put his hope in God and waited for him, praising him as his help and he is God. We can do the same thing if we choose to. to over-

come discouragement you got to get back up. Praise him no matter what the circumstance may be. Put scriptures in your mind and speak them out loud to yourself. Don’t talk yourself up not down.

2nd Chronicles 20:17, 23-21 the Lord makes a covering over us and defends us. He fights our battles for us when we praise him. I don’t know about you, but I do know one thing, when, I have been, down really, really down all it takes is some good worship music a good beat and a couple of great scriptures that I can sing out loud to myself, that brings me out and helps me to understand Gods got my back he’s got your back too. Trust will bring you peace because when you fully trust, you don’t worry so much anymore.

Roxane Mann is the pastor of The Lord’s Table Church.

Trust brings peace

6.3 earthquake kills 7 in Croatia, leaves others missing

By **SASA KAVIC**
Associated Press

PETRINJA, Croatia — A strong earthquake in Croatia destroyed buildings and killed at least seven people Tuesday southwest of the capital, displacing scores of area residents or making them afraid to sleep indoors as emergency teams searched for those still missing by nightfall.

The European Mediterranean Seismological Center said the magnitude 6.3 quake hit 28 miles southeast of Zagreb just before 12:20 p.m. local time. It caused widespread damage in the hardest-hit town of Petrinja. The same area was struck by a magnitude 5.2 quake on Monday.

Officials said a 12-year-old girl died in Petrinja, a town of some 25,000 people. Another six people were killed in nearly destroyed villages close to the town, according to HRT state television. At least 26 people were hospitalized, six with serious injuries, officials said, adding that many more people remained unaccounted for.

In Petrinja, cries could be heard from underneath destroyed houses. One woman was found alive some four hours after the quake. Emergency teams used rescue dogs in the search for survivors, while family members looked on in despair.

“My town has been completely destroyed. We have dead children,” Petrinja Mayor Darinko Dumbovic said in a statement broadcast by HRT. “This is like Hiroshima – half of the city no longer exists.”

Firefighters worked to remove the debris from a collapsed building that fell on a car. A man and a small boy eventually were rescued from the vehicle and carried into an ambulance.

The town was left without electricity or running water as officials scrambled to set up temporary accommodation for all of the displaced residents in need. Residents fearing another earthquake seemed poised to spend the night outside their homes.

Petrinja resident Marica Pavlovic said the quake felt “worse than a war.”

“It was horrible, a shock. You don’t know what to do, whether to run out or hide somewhere,” she told The Associated Press.

Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic and other government ministers arrived in Petrinja after the earthquake.

“The biggest part of central Petrinja is in a red zone, which means that most of the buildings are not usable,” Plenkovic said.

He said the army has 500 places ready in barracks to house people, while others will be accommodated in nearby hotels and other places.

“No one must stay out in the cold tonight,” the prime minister said.

Officials also toured a damaged hospital in the nearby town of Sisak, which was also badly hit. Plenkovic said the patients will be evacuated in army helicopters and ambulances.

Health officials said a baby was delivered in a tent in front of the hospital in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Belarus, Argentina start vaccinations with Russian shots

By **DARIA LITVINOVA**
and **ALMUDENA CALATRAVA**
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Belarus and Argentina launched mass coronavirus vaccinations with the Russian-developed Sputnik V shot on Tuesday, becoming the first countries outside Russia to roll out the vaccine, which has faced criticism over the speed with which it was approved.

The first batch of Sputnik V arrived in the former Soviet republic of Belarus on Tuesday and the vaccination effort began almost immediately.

“A new stage starts in Belarus today with mass vaccinations against COVID-19. Medical staff, teachers, and those who come into contact a lot of people due to their jobs will be the first to get vaccinated. Vaccination will be entirely voluntary,” Belarus Health Minister Dmitry Pinevich was quoted as saying in a statement issued by his ministry and Russian health authorities.

Hours later, a similar campaign kicked off in South America as Argentin

tine medical workers began receiving the vaccine and officials insisted it was safe. President Alberto Fernández called it the largest vaccination campaign in the country’s modern history.

Teachers, those with complicating medical conditions and people over 60 were to be next in line in Argentina, which so far has received 300,000 doses, which also will be free and voluntary.

Argentina, a country of 45 million people, has recorded nearly 1.6 million infections with the new coronavirus and almost 43,000 deaths.

Belarus conducted its own trial of Sputnik V among 100 volunteers and gave the shot regulatory approval on Dec. 21, two days before Argentina did.

Russia has been widely criticized for giving the domestically developed Sputnik V regulatory approval in August after the vaccine only had been tested on a few dozen people. An advanced study started shortly after the vaccine received the Russian govern-

ment’s go-ahead. Russian health authorities say the study has now covered more than 30,000 people, with data suggesting the virus was 91 percent effective. That’s still far fewer cases than Western drug makers have accumulated during final testing to analyze how well their candidates worked, and important demographic and other details from the study have not been released.

Former Argentine Health Secretary Adolfo Rubinstein complained that his country’s authorities had approved the vaccine based on “a memo lacking data.”

“I don’t doubt that Sputnik V is an effective and safe vaccine,” he said. “But the best way to undo a lack of confidence is with information,” he said.

Belarus has reported nearly 190,000 confirmed coronavirus cases and about 1,400 deaths since the start of the pandemic, but many in the Eastern European nation of 9.4 million people suspect that authorities are manipulating statistics to hide the true scope of the country’s outbreak.

Asia Today: United States begins vaccinating its troops in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The United States has started vaccinating its troops based in South Korea, as its Asian ally reported its highest daily COVID-19 fatalities amid surging cases in the country.

The United States Forces Korea says in a statement it started inoculating military and civilian health-care workers, first responders and the USFK command team with the Moderna vaccine on Tuesday.

Among those who received the vaccinations was Gen. Robert B. Abrams, chief of the 28,500 American troops in South Korea.

It says the vaccine is 100 percent voluntary and not mandatory. Abrams says that “I strongly encourage all eligible individuals to receive the vaccine.”

The USFK statement says more vaccines from Moderna, and potentially others with FDA approval, will be sent to the USFK.

The U.S. troops’ deployment is meant to deter potential aggression from North Korea. Abrams says the COVID-19 vaccine “is another tool that will help USFK maintain a robust combined defensive posture.”

South Korean government

has faced domestic criticism that it has been too slow in working out vaccine procurement plans. The government said Tuesday it will have vaccines for 56 million people, an amount seemingly enough for the country’s 51 million people. Officials say they plan to begin inoculating the South Korean public in February.

Earlier Tuesday, South Korea said 40 more virus patients had died in the past 24 hours, the country’s biggest coronavirus-related daily death toll since the pandemic began. South Korea also logged 1,046 new cases of infections, taking the total caseload to 58,725 with 859 deaths.

The 40 deaths are the nation’s highest daily toll, which has been attributed to clusters in nursing homes and similar care facilities with elderly or otherwise vulnerable residents. Officials say 28 of the newly reported 40 deaths happened at such facilities.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ Sri Lanka has reopened to tourists after more than nine months in a pilot program to help its depleted tourism industry. The first group of 186 tourists arrived on a special flight from

Ukraine on Monday and are expected to stay for 10 days mostly in the popular southern coastline region. The tourism sector accounts for 5 percent of Sri Lanka’s GDP, employs 250,000 people directly and up to 2 million indirectly. Hotels and other businesses have been hurt severely without foreign tourists. Sri Lanka has confirmed 41,602 cases of infection since March, and most of them have been connected to two clusters at a garment factory and fish market since October.

■ India has found six people who returned from the United Kingdom in recent weeks infected with a new variant of the coronavirus. The health ministry said Tuesday that all the six patients were isolated and their fellow travelers were tracked down. Close contacts of the infected patients were also put under quarantine. India previously suspended flights from and to the U.K. until the end of the year, noting the new variant is “spreading and growing rapidly.”

India on Tuesday reported 16,432 new cases of the virus overall, taking its total to 10.22 million infections and 148,153 deaths. India is expected to start a vaccination drive for some 300 million

people early next month.

■ China on Tuesday reported seven new cases of coronavirus infection in the capital Beijing, where authorities have ordered the testing of hundreds of thousands of residents. Cases have been clustered largely in villages on Beijing’s northeastern edge, but authorities are wary of any spread in the capital that could deal a setback to claims it has all-but-contained local spread of the virus. City authorities have already urged residents not to leave the city during the upcoming Lunar New Year holidays. China has canceled big gatherings such as sports events and temple fairs. Cinemas, libraries and museums operate at 75 percent capacity. The government is also discouraging business trips. A total of 27 cases were reported on Tuesday, including eight in the northeastern province of Liaoning and 12 brought from outside the country. China has reported a total of 87,003 cases and 4,634 deaths since the virus was first detected in the central city of Wuhan late last year. Hong Kong on Monday reported cases in a security guard and cleaner at its international airport, bringing its total to 8,671 cases with 141 deaths.

SUPPORT

From page A1

to potentially allow some organizations that were previously shut out of the program can potentially apply now, so that is good,” said Gillenwater.

On Monday, Walorski was also one of only a few dozen Republicans to vote in favor of an additional House of Representatives proposal to up direct payments to Americans from \$600 to \$2,000.

However, on Tuesday, Majority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, blocked a vote in the Senate on that proposal.

In a statement Monday evening, Braun did not mention the coming fight over the \$2,000 checks supported by President Donald Trump but said he supported the president’s position on other pieces of legislation, including the veto of the National Defense Authorization Act, which is expected to be tied up in the wrangling during the final days of the current Congress.

“I want to thank President Trump for signing the COVID relief bill much needed by Main Street small businesses and their employees across the country, and I support his veto of the massive, unaudited NDAA and his call for Congress to address wasteful spending

in the Omnibus spending bill. I am also calling on my colleagues in the US Senate to vote immediately to repeal Section 230 to hold Big Tech accountable and cut the pork in the Omnibus spending bill. We should not adjourn the 116th Congress with our final act being an override of President Trump’s veto while ignoring these other urgent matters,” said Braun.

Still, Gillenwater said the extra \$600 per person would go a long way with those who are struggling.

“The extra individual funding will help a number of local families,” said Gillenwater.

Gillenwater said the restoration of the \$300 above the line charitable giving deduction will help a lot of our community “since we have so many folks who are philanthropic.”

Gillenwater said he was also interested in several programs funded to help the agricultural community including the Farmers-to-Families food box program and a depopulation support program for livestock producers who could not get their animals to market last year due to COVID-19 closures.

View from the federal and state levels

During a televised press conference Tuesday, Dec.

22, Young said that while no broad economic support was ultimately included for cities and states, “so much of the assistance that we did provide in the package will make it down to the local level.”

“Assistance is coming to the local level here in Indiana, but we made a decision not to provide significant additional state and local assistance to many of those other states that have not been quite as fiscally responsible,” said Young.

Young said there was an effort in Congress, mainly by Democrats, to provide that assistance, but they were rebuffed.

“(Those) states ... frankly have not done what Indiana has done in the last decade-plus, which is to really not just balance our budget but create a rainy day fund for the rainiest of days that could be drawn down,” said Young. “It would be frankly a dereliction of my responsibility to allow this COVID pandemic to be an opportunity to pay off unfunded pension liabilities and to take care of other unwise expenditures and decisions of government officials in states that have not been as wise as the state of Indiana.”

Young said they would likely revisit the issue in 2021, along with other priorities that were similarly

not included.

“There is no doubt. And it may require a sort of principled compromise as we head into next year,” said Young. “We also didn’t get liability protection, which I think we need for our health care providers and our school corporations and many of our manufacturing operations and other employers here in the state. Sometimes you need to set aside certain things you can’t agree upon to get the urgent relief that Hoosiers and other Americans need.”

Gov. Eric Holcomb said he agreed with Young’s fiscal assessment and called the local assistance which was included “targeted.”

“That’s all on the ground. That’s where the rubber meets the road in every small, medium and large size community and it’s directed that way. It may come through the state of Indiana, but it’s directed there,” said Holcomb.

Young said the bill was more focused on individuals rather than entities.

“Individual hurting Americans. We made sure it was targeted to those Americans who needed it most. And I think we succeeded in large measure in accomplishing our mission,” said Young.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

PULSE

From page A1

reached by phone at 260-563-7536 – remains open as will Living Well Winchester Senior Center offices – which may be reached by phone at 260-563-4475. December senior supplemental food boxes will be pick-up only. To schedule a pantry appointment or to sign up for senior center remote activities and services, call 260-563-4475.

ISP to increase overtime patrols during holidays

Troopers working from the Indiana State Police (ISP) Peru Post will be increasing overtime patrols during the New Years’ driving period. This is part of the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over national enforcement mobilization that runs through Jan. 1, 2021. Officers will be searching for impaired drivers, whether it’s alcohol or drugs. Officers will also be on the lookout for unbuckled motorists.

Salamonie to hold Winter Forest Day Camp

Salamonie Lake has announced an outdoor day camp from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, to Friday, Jan. 8, 2021, at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Children ages 7 to 13 are welcome. The early bird registration discount ends Monday, Dec. 21. Events scheduled during the day camp include a daily hike, sit spots, games, shelter and fire building, small groups to prepare and present short presentations on nature topics. Participants will also meet education birds-of-prey ambassadors. The cost per child is \$60 and \$55 for each additional sibling. For more information and registration, call 260-468-2127. Limited space is available. For more information,

visit dnr.IN.gov/uwis.

Honeywell seeking artist entries for Clark Gallery 92 County Art Show

Honeywell Arts & Entertainment will be hosting its annual 92 County Art Show in the Honeywell Center Clark Gallery from Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021, to Monday, Feb. 15, 2021. Entries will be accepted from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4. The competition is open to artists of all ages living in any of the 92 Indiana counties. For a list of complete guidelines and artist entry information, visit HoneywellArts.org/92-county. The exhibit will be available for public viewing from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and will be hosted virtually via HoneywellArts.org and the Honeywell Center’s Facebook and Instagram pages. For more information, visit <http://honeywellarts.org/exhibits>.

Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distribution every other Wednesday

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021, at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester; and 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021, at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org, www.classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

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HCAC confirms return to play

No spectators will be allowed for any athletics events until at least Feb. 15, 2021

By DILLON BENDER

On Friday, Dec. 18, the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) Council of Presidents confirmed its earlier decision to continue to move forward with plans to resume conference play in 2021.

Following the direction given by the Council of Presidents at its Nov. 13 meeting, the HCAC administration has been working to develop safe plans to resume conference play for all winter sports, in addition to the 2020 fall sports that were postponed to the Spring 2021 semester.

The sports of men's and women's basketball will begin conference play in mid-January. Fellow winter sports, men's and women's swimming and diving and men's and women's indoor track and field, are continuing to work towards the goal of a conference championship.

"We remain optimistic that we will be able to see our student-athletes return to play in the coming year in a safe environment," said HCAC commissioner Jay Jones. "While we are taking steps to make that safe return to play possible and are getting more excited for a January start each day, it is important to be cautious that, due to always changing local and state guidelines, these remain plans and not promises. The

Heartland community of administrators has worked tirelessly to return our student-athletes to competition, and will continue to collaborate with local, regional, and state health officials in addition to following the NCAA's recommendations."

The Council of Presidents further determined that the HCAC will not allow spectators – on or off-campus – for any athletics events until at least Feb. 15, 2021 and will be re-evaluated at that time.

The changes to the HCAC schedules and championships – as outlined below – are designed to be in place for the 2020-21 academic year only and are needed in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. These adjustments are not intended to be permanent. The Heartland continues to monitor the effects of the Pandemic and is prepared to make necessary alterations to those schedules to allow for a safe competition that meets all safety and health guidelines.

Baseball: The HCAC intends to play a conference-only schedule, with a post-season tournament (format TBD) conducted in mid-May 2021.

Men's and Women's Basketball: The HCAC intends to conduct conference regular-season and postseason events that will take place in the Spring 2021 semester, with conference play set to

begin on the weekend of Jan. 16.

Men's and Women's Cross Country: The HCAC intends to host an HCAC Men's and Women's Cross Country Championship in mid-March 2021. The 2020-21 NCAA Division III Championship has been canceled for this sport.

Football: The HCAC intends to play a round-robin conference schedule. The 2020-21 NCAA Division III Championship has been canceled for this sport.

Men's Golf: The HCAC intends to host an HCAC Men's Golf Championship in late April 2021.

Women's Golf: The HCAC intends to host an HCAC Women's Golf Championship in late April 2021.

Men's Lacrosse: The HCLC intends to play a conference schedule, with a conference tournament conducted in early May 2021. Decisions on non-conference play remain yet to be determined.

Women's Lacrosse: The HCLC intends to play a conference schedule, with a conference tournament conducted in late April 2021. Decisions on non-conference play remain yet to be determined.

Men's Soccer: The HCAC intends to play a 10-team round-robin conference-only schedule, with the potential for a post-season contest. The 2020-21 NCAA Division III Championship has been canceled for these sports.

Softball: The HCAC in-

tends to play a conference schedule, with a conference tournament conducted in early May 2021. Decisions on non-conference play remain yet to be determined.

Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving: The HCAC intends to host an HCAC Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Championship in mid-February or early-March 2021.

Men's and Women's Tennis: The HCAC intends to play a conference schedule, with a conference tournament conducted in early May 2021. Decisions on non-conference play remain yet to be determined.

Men's and Women's Track and Field: The HCAC intends to host both Indoor and Outdoor HCAC Track and Field Championships. The Indoor Track and Field Championship is scheduled to be held on the campus of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in late February 2021. The Outdoor Track and Field Championship is scheduled to be held on the campus of the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in late-April 2021.

Volleyball: The HCAC intends to play nine dates of conference-only competition, with plans to conduct a post-season conference tournament. The 2020-21 NCAA Division III Championship has been canceled for this sport.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

SCOREBOARD

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Indiana High School Basketball Poll				
Class 4A				
	W-L	Pts	Prv	
1. Lawrence North (5)	5-0	178	1	
2. Carmel (2)	7-0	162	2	
3. Homestead (2)	9-0	152	3	
4. Lafayette Jeff	8-0	114	4	
5. Westfield	6-0	106	5	
6. Indpls Cathedral	8-1	97	6	
7. Indianapolis Attucks	8-1	82	7	
8. S. Bend Adams	7-0	66	T10	
9. S. Bend Riley	6-1	32	T10	
(tie) Zionsville	5-2	32	9	
Others receiving votes: Columbus North 24, DeKalb 20, Crown Point 18, Gary West 17, Concord 16, E. Central 14, Highland 12, Hobart 10, Hammond Morton 9, Plainfield 8, New Albany 7, Warren Central 6, Munster 6, Greenwood 6, Bloomington North 6.				
Class 3A				
	W-L	Pts	Prv	
1. Heritage Hills (7)	5-0	164	1	
2. Hammond (2)	3-1	150	2	
3. Silver Creek	4-2	140	3	
4. Ev. Bosse	3-0	134	4	
5. Greensburg	4-0	118	5	
6. Sullivan	5-0	88	7	
7. Mishawaka Marian	4-1	76	6	
8. Danville	1-0	61	9	
9. Leo	6-0	54	NR	
10. S. Bend St. Joseph's	4-2	47	8	
Others receiving votes: Delta 20, Tri-West 13, Beech Grove 9, Greencastle 6.				
Class 2A				
	W-L	Pts	Prv	
1. Ft. Wayne Blackhawk (9)	6-0	180	1	
2. Blackford	6-0	152	3	
3. S. Spencer	8-0	134	4	
4. Linton-Stockton	8-1	124	2	
5. Shenandoah	6-1	100	5	
6. Westview	5-1	89	6	
7. Indpls Covenant Christian	4-0	69	7	
8. Parke Heritage	6-1	65	8	
9. Central Noble	6-1	46	9	
10. Andean	4-1	44	10	
Others receiving votes: S. Ripley 28, Madison-Grant 22, Ev. Mater Dei 8, Southwestern (Jefferson) 7, Churubusco 6, Northeastern 6.				
Class 1A				
	W-L	Pts	Prv	
1. Barr-Reeve (8)	6-1	176	1	
2. Kouts	7-1	152	2	
3. Bloomfield (1)	3-0	142	3	
4. N. Daviess	6-0	121	5	
5. Loogootee	5-2	115	4	
6. Morristown	3-1	82	7	
7. Edinburg	7-2	76	6	
8. Covington	2-2	61	8	
9. Tindley	5-2	61	10	
10. Ev. Christian	5-1	33	NR	
Others receiving votes: Jac-Cen-De 28, Lafayette Catholic 20, Gary 21st Century 6, Triton 6.				

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

AP Top 25 Men's Basketball Poll				
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 27, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking				
	Record	Pts	Prv	
1. Gonzaga (62)	7-0	1598	1	
2. Baylor (2)	6-0	1537	2	
3. Kansas	8-1	1458	3	
4. Villanova	8-1	1370	5	
5. Houston	7-0	1313	6	
6. Wisconsin	8-1	1249	9	
7. Tennessee	6-0	1217	8	
8. Texas	7-1	1109	10	
9. West Virginia	7-2	1080	7	
10. Iowa	7-2	1008	4	
11. Creighton	7-2	926	13	
12. Missouri	6-0	888	14	
13. Texas Tech	7-2	821	15	
14. Rutgers	6-1	659	11	
15. Illinois	7-3	650	18	
16. Michigan	7-0	582	19	
17. Michigan St.	6-2	431	12	
18. Florida St.	5-1	377	21	
19. Northwestern	6-1	350	-	
20. Duke	3-2	290	20	
21. Oregon	6-1	252	25	
21. Minnesota	8-1	252	-	
23. Virginia	4-2	238	16	
24. Virginia Tech	7-1	230	24	
25. Ohio St.	7-2	216	23	
Others receiving votes: Xavier 178, San Diego St. 172, North Carolina 57, Arkansas 55, Clemson 50, Colorado 50, Saint Louis 49, Florida 20, Louisville 18, BYU 12, Georgia 10, NC State 8, UCLA 4, Indiana 4, Richmond 3, UCF 2, Western Kentucky 2, Boise St. 2, SMU 1, Chattanooga 1, Drake 1.				

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

The AP Top 25 Women's Basketball Poll				
Record				
	Record	Pts	Prv	
1. Stanford (26)	7-0	744	1	
2. Louisville (1)	5-0	692	2	
3. NC State (2)	8-0	675	4	
4. UConn (1)	5-0	674	3	
5. South Carolina	5-1	641	5	
6. Arizona	7-0	601	6	
7. Baylor	7-1	557	7	
8. Oregon	7-0	556	8	
9. Texas A&M	8-0	498	9	
10. Arkansas	9-1	447	11	
11. UCLA	5-2	427	10	
12. Mississippi St.	5-1	426	12	
13. Kentucky	7-1	393	13	
14. Maryland	5-1	382	14	
15. Northwestern	4-0	330	15	
16. Michigan	5-0	256	17	
17. Ohio St.	4-0	253	16	
18. DePaul	5-2	205	18	
19. Texas	6-1	175	20	
20. Indiana	4-2	172	19	
21. South Florida	5-1	168	20	
22. Syracuse	5-1	98	22	
23. Gonzaga	5-2	86	23	
24. Missouri St.	4-2	69	24	
25. Michigan St.	7-0	66	25	
Others receiving votes: Georgia 33, North Carolina 27, South Dakota St. 24, Oregon St. 20, Iowa St. 12, Tennessee 10, Arizona St. 8, Rutgers 6, Iowa 6, Wake Forest 4, Georgia Tech 4, Rice 3, Alabama 2.				

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phila.	2	1	.667	—
Brooklyn	2	2	.500	½
New York	1	2	.333	1
Boston	1	2	.333	1
Toronto	0	2	.000	1½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	3	0	1.000	—
Atlanta	3	0	1.000	—
Miami	1	1	.500	1½
Charlotte	1	2	.333	2
Washington	0	3	.000	3
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	3	0	1.000	—
Indiana	3	0	1.000	—
Milwaukee	1	2	.333	2
Detroit	0	3	.000	3
Chicago	0	3	.000	3
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	2	1	.667	—
San Antonio	2	1	.667	—
Dallas	1	2	.333	1
Memphis	1	2	.333	1
Houston	0	2	.000	1½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	2	1	.667	—
Utah	2	1	.667	—
Portland	2	1	.667	—
Oklahoma City	1	1	.500	½
Denver	1	2	.333	1
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	2	1	.667	—
L.A. Clippers	2	1	.667	—
Sacramento	2	1	.667	—
L.A. Lakers	2	2	.500	½
Golden State	1	2	.333	1

Monday's Games

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phila.	2	1	.667	—
Brooklyn	2	2	.500	½
New York	1	2	.333	1
Boston	1	2	.333	1
Toronto	0	2	.000	1½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	3	0	1.000	—
Atlanta	3	0	1.000	—
Miami	1	1	.500	1½
Charlotte	1	2	.333	2
Washington	0	3	.000	3
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	3	0	1.000	—
Indiana	3	0	1.000	—
Milwaukee	1	2	.333	2
Detroit	0	3	.000	3
Chicago	0	3	.000	3
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	2	1	.667	—
San Antonio	2	1	.667	—
Dallas	1	2	.333	1
Memphis	1	2	.333	1
Houston	0	2	.000	1½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	2	1	.667	—
Utah	2	1	.667	—
Portland	2	1	.667	—
Oklahoma City	1	1	.500	½
Denver	1	2	.333	1
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	2	1	.667	—
L.A. Clippers	2	1	.667	—
Sacramento	2	1	.667	—
L.A. Lakers	2	2	.500	½
Golden State	1	2	.333	1
Monday's Games				
Atlanta 128, Detroit 120				
Memphis 116, Brooklyn 111, OT				
Utah 110, Oklahoma City 109				
Denver 124, Houston 111				
Portland 115, L.A. Lakers 107				
Tuesday's Games				
Boston at Indiana				
Chicago at Washington				

Golden State at Detroit				
New York at Cleveland				
Toronto at Phila.				
Milwaukee at Miami				
Orlando at Oklahoma City				
Denver at Sacramento				
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers				
New Orleans at Phoenix				
Wednesday's Games				
Atlanta at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.				
Memphis at Boston, 7:30 p.m.				
Milwaukee at Miami, 7:30 p.m.				
Charlotte at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.				
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.				
Portland at L.A. Clippers, 10 p.m.				
Thursday's Games				
Cleveland at Indiana, 3 p.m.				
Chicago at Washington, 5 p.m.				
Phila. at Orlando, 6:30 p.m.				
Sacramento at Houston, 7 p.m.				
New York at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.				
New Orleans at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.				
Phoenix at Utah, 9 p.m.				
Friday's Games				
Boston at Detroit, 7 p.m.				
Memphis at Charlotte, 7 p.m.				
Miami at Dallas, 7 p.m.				
Atlanta at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.				
Chicago at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.				
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 8 p.m.				
Washington at Minnesota, 8 p.m.				
L.A. Clippers at Utah, 9 p.m.				
Phoenix at Denver, 9 p.m.				
Portland at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.				

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

2020-21 Bowl Glance				
Wednesday, Dec. 30				
DUKE'S MAYO BOWL				
Charlotte, N.C.				
Wisconsin vs. Wake Forest, Noon (ESPN)				
COTTON BOWL CLASSIC				
Arlington, Texas				
No. 8 Oklahoma vs. No. 10 Florida, 7:15 p.m. (ESPN)				

Thursday, Dec. 31

ARMED FORCES BOWL				
Fort Worth, Texas				
No. 22 Tulsa vs. Mississippi St., Noon (ESPN)				
ARIZONA BOWL				
Tucson, Ariz.				
No. 19 San Jose St. vs. Ball State., 2 p.m. (CBSSN)				
LIBERTY BOWL				
Memphis, Tenn.				
West Virginia vs. Army, 4 p.m. (ESPN)				
TEXAS BOWL				
Houston				
TCU vs. Arkansas, canceled				

Friday, Jan. 1

PEACH BOWL	
Atlanta	
No. 6 Cincinnati vs. No. 11 Georgia, Noon (ESPN)	
CITRUS BOWL	
Orlando, Fla.	
No. 15 Northwestern vs. Auburn, 1 p.m. (ABC)	
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL	
ROSE BOWL	
Arlington, Texas	
No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 4 Notre Dame, 4 p.m. (ESPN)	
SUGAR BOWL	

Attentions from married man play with woman’s emotions

DEAR ABBY: I’m someone who doesn’t get noticed often by the opposite sex. So when I do receive attention, it’s a very nice feeling. The problem is, I am getting that attention from a man who is married.

Dear Abby



In the beginning, I didn’t know he was married. He doesn’t wear a ring, and he never mentioned a wife until one day while we were chatting, he let it slip. I don’t think he meant for it to happen.

When someone is married, I back off. But for some reason, I’m not backing away from this. I’m starting to have feelings for him. I’m leaving it up to him, though. If he flirts, I’ll flirt back. When he comes on strong one day, the next day he feels guilty and backs off, but then we pick up right where we left off.

I’m not trying to paint him as the bad guy; he’s honestly a really good guy – in my opinion, anyway. I know it’s wrong, and he hasn’t promised anything. We haven’t had any physical contact other than the daily interaction. But it’s messing with my emotions. I don’t want to feel anything for him, but I can’t help it. Help! – Dazed & Confused

DEAR DAZED & CONFUSED: You may not want to feel anything for this married man, but you do. And because you “don’t get noticed much by the opposite sex,” the attention you’re receiving is like water on a parched flower. (Funny how they always seem to pick the vulnerable ones.)

You may not have had physical contact with him (yet), but you are playing with fire. This is no longer an “innocent” flirtation. Someone will get hurt if it continues, and that person is likely to be you. Keep in mind that “good guys” don’t behave the way he does, and this wouldn’t have happened if he had been honest with you about his marital status.

DEAR ABBY: When I came out as gay, my parents rejected me. It made my early 20s the most challenging period of my life. I have tried to forgive them and move on, but they refuse to acknowledge the trauma they caused.

I was upset all over again last year when they felt sorry for a young adult and let him move in with them. Mom never shuts up about how we should feel sorry for those less fortunate. They act like I have always been blessed and refuse to acknowledge any of the pain or bad things that have happened in my life.

How should I react to this? I’m on a good path now, no thanks to them, and my life has never been better. But I don’t know if I can ever forgive them for being so helpful to a stranger and not their son. Am I wrong to ask where my sympathy was? – Seeking Validation In Texas

DEAR SEEKING: If you plan to put a mirror up to your knee-jerk homophobic parents and expect honest introspection from them, I think you’ll be wasting your time. It’s possible that they think their compassion for the stranger makes up for the way they treated you. Whether you can forgive them for it depends solely upon you.

You are now on a constructive and rewarding path. The validation you are seeking can be found there. Your ability to forgive may come once you have distanced yourself enough that the pain they caused is less acute. I have often advised that when parents are toxic, it’s important to build “families of choice,” and I sincerely hope that is what you are doing and will continue to do.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Fishhook part
- 5 Soak in the tub
- 10 Exceptionally courageous
- 12 Less trusting
- 13 Grads
- 14 Ms. Lansbury
- 15 “Frozen” villain
- 16 Hole-making tool
- 18 Law (abbr.)
- 19 Engine covers
- 21 Be evasive
- 25 Like a sheep
- 29 Pungent veggie
- 30 Dove or pigeon
- 32 Prime-time hour
- 33 Chocolate bean
- 34 Flavorful seed
- 37 Atlanta university

38 Really enjoy

- 40 Kitchen meas.
- 43 Sombbrero
- 44 Cold spell
- 48 Andes ruminant
- 50 Papeete’s island
- 52 Tooth coating
- 53 Spotted wildcat
- 54 Entice
- 55 Ideal spot

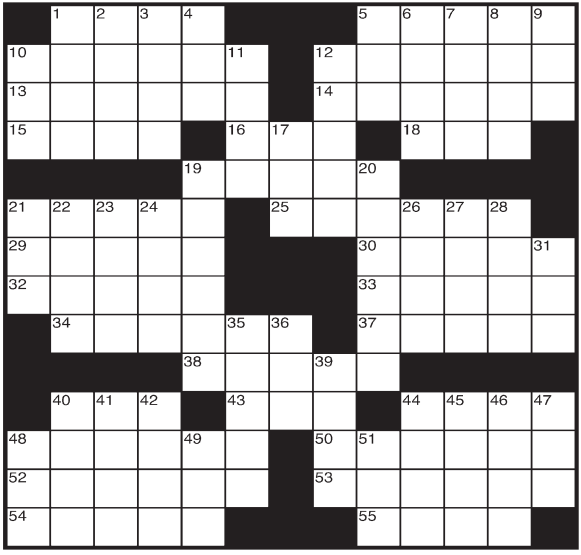
DOWN

- 1 Lugosi of “Dracula”
- 2 Make — for it
- 3 CD- —
- 4 Place for laundry
- 5 Outlaw
- 6 Ship of myth
- 7 Stratrum
- 8 Believed
- 9 Epoch
- 10 Nasty laugh
- 11 Hi or bye
- 12 Handford’s hidden hiker

Answer to Previous Puzzle



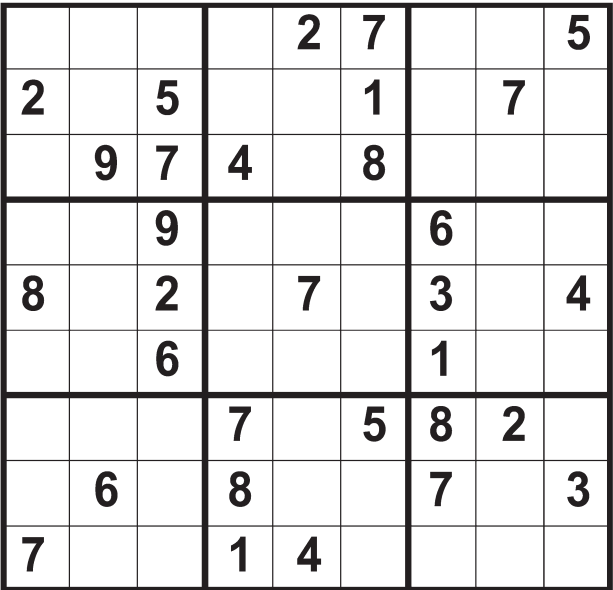
- 17 Cry of amazement
- 19 Redheads’ dyes
- 20 World Cup sport
- 21 Two, in Oaxaca
- 22 Small bills
- 23 Sharp decline
- 24 Takes one’s turn
- 26 Good dirt
- 27 Crazy, to Pedro
- 28 Decade part
- 31 Designer Rachel
- 35 Taj —
- 36 NASA excursion
- 39 Comic strip dog
- 40 Fork feature
- 41 Hoax
- 42 Well mechanism
- 44 Farm building
- 45 Aswan Dam site
- 46 Egyptian solar deity
- 47 Indy area
- 48 Rover’s doc
- 49 Badminton need
- 51 Winning serve



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆



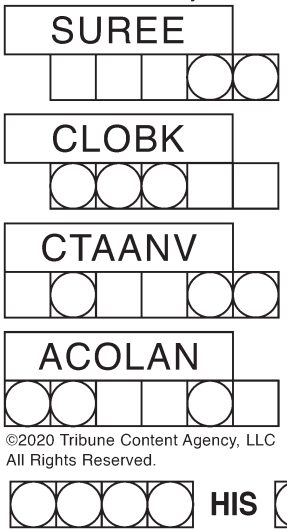
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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION								
2	8	4	3	5	7	1	9	6
9	5	1	6	2	8	3	7	4
7	3	6	9	1	4	2	8	5
5	2	3	8	4	9	7	6	1
4	7	9	2	6	1	5	3	8
6	1	8	5	7	3	9	4	2
8	9	5	4	3	2	6	1	7
3	6	7	1	8	5	4	2	9
1	4	2	7	9	6	8	5	3

JUMBLE

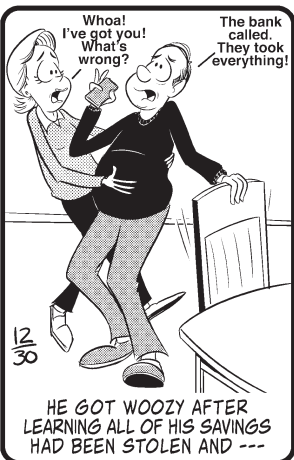
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



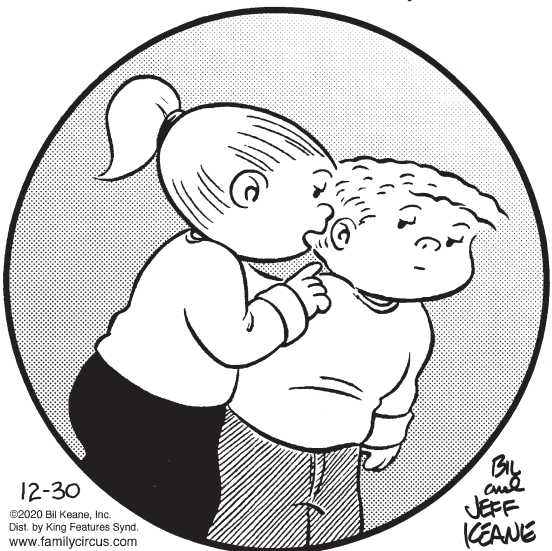
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday’s Jumbles: CABLE GAUGE SLEEPY MAINLY Answer: When asked if his new dictionary could be purchased, Noah Webster said — “BUY” ALL MEANS

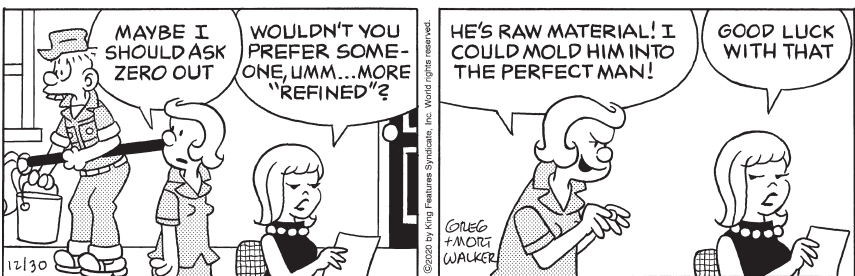
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



“Whenever you know a secret, you need to whisper it into somebody’s ear.”

BEETLE BAILEY



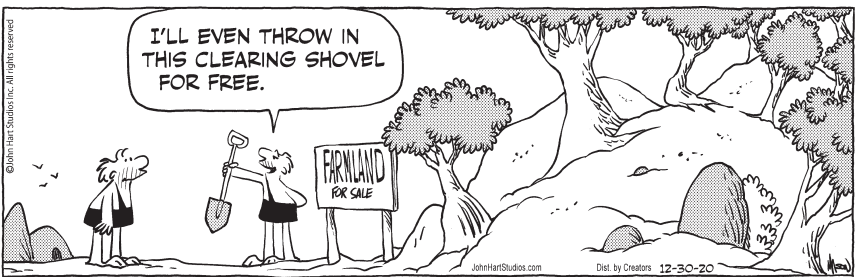
BLONDIE



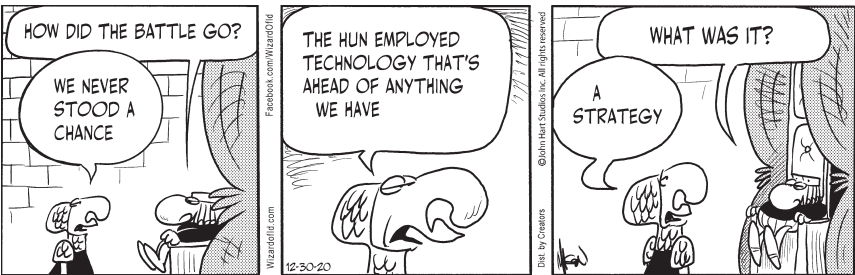
HI & LOIS



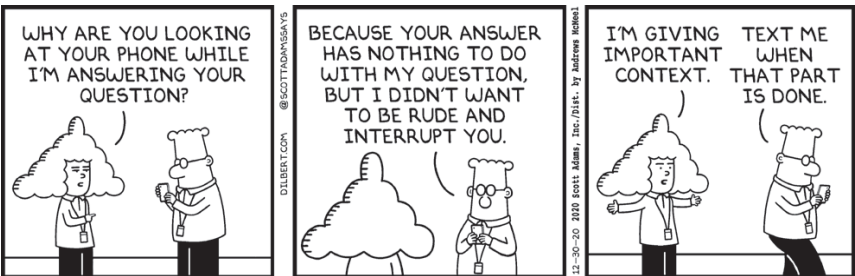
BC



WIZARD OF ID



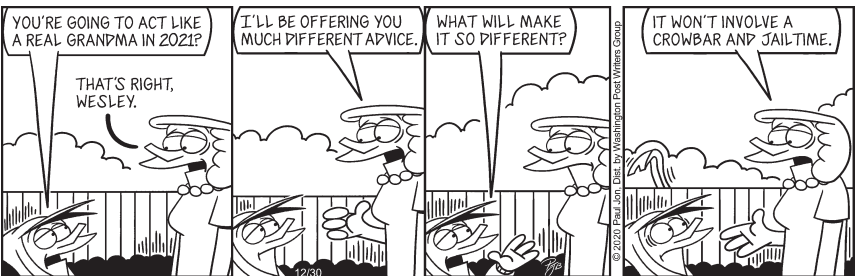
DILBERT



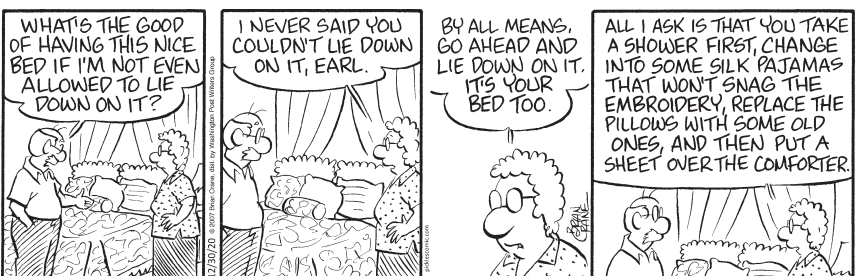
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



Even decent people harbor hatred in their hearts

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: Day after day the world seems to increase in evil and people walk around in despair. As we enter a new year is there any hope that this world can know happiness? – E.T.

A: As the headlines any day of the week indicate, terrible things happen in our world – wars, conflicts, terrorist attacks, injustice, and sickness? Why? Because the world is filled with sin and the human heart is capable of incredible evil. We like to pretend this isn’t the case; we may even think that the more civilized or educated we are, the less likely we will be to do something evil, or to experience sorrow. But that isn’t necessarily so. The Bible says, “Truly

the hearts of [men] are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live” (Ecclesiastes 9:3).

Even people who are decent and respectable on the surface may be harboring deep hatred and anger in their hearts. Only Jesus can cleanse us from the moral and spiritual filth we have allowed to accumulate in our hearts. When we go to Him, God not only forgives us of our sins, but He comes to live within us by His Holy Spirit. God’s promise is for all who turn in faith to Christ: “I will

give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you.... I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes” (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

What a wonderful truth this is that brings hope and peace to our hearts. Daily we must seek Jesus’ help to do His will. We must pray that He will restrain evil and hasten the coming of His kingdom.

Commit your life to Him today and experience the joy of knowing the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“ P S O G A E X S Y K S S G A K Y S H V H W E K Z X W H S O E X K L Z P W E G Z Z R K L W K K L Z H Z T W R W C T W P R V S A E V K S I Z I W R Z I W C C A E S D K S I Z H . ” – T L A K Z P Y S H X

Previous Solution: “Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor.” – James Baldwin

TODAY’S CLUE: C s i e n b a d

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact
your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any
Indiana lawmaker,
go to this website:
[www.in.gov/cgi-bin/
legislative/contact/
contact.pl](http://www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl)

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

"But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world."

1 Corinthians 11:32

Give it up, Mr. President – for your sake and the nation’s

Mr. President, it’s time to end this dark charade. We’re one week away from an enormously important moment for the next four years of our country.

On Jan. 5, two runoff races in Georgia will determine which party will control the Senate – whether Joe Biden will have a rubber stamp or a much-needed check on his agenda.

Unfortunately, you’re obsessed with the next day, Jan. 6, when Congress will, in a pro forma action, certify the Electoral College vote. You have tweeted that, as long as Republicans have “courage,” they can overturn the results and give you four more years in office.

In other words, you’re cheering for an undemocratic coup. You had every right to investigate the election. But let’s be clear: Those efforts have found nothing. To take just two examples: Your campaign paid \$3 million for a recount in two Wisconsin counties, and you lost by 87 more votes. Georgia did two recounts of the state, each time affirming Biden’s win. These ballots were counted by hand, which alone debunks the claims of a Venezuelan vote-manipulating Kraken conspiracy.

Sidney Powell is a crazy per-

son. Michael Flynn suggesting martial law is tantamount to treason. It is shameful.

We understand, Mr. President, that you’re angry that you lost. But to continue down this road is ruinous. We offer this as a newspaper that endorsed you, that supported you: If you want to cement your influence, even set the stage for a future return, you must channel your fury into something more productive.

Stop thinking about Jan. 6. Start thinking about Jan. 5.

If Republicans David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler win, they will prevent Biden from rolling back what you have accomplished. A Republican Senate can pressure Biden against returning to the old, failed Iran deal, can stop him from throwing open our southern border, will prevent him from packing the Supreme Court.

Now imagine a government controlled by your nemeses – Nancy Pelosi in the House, Chuck Schumer in the Senate, Biden in the White House. How high will taxes go? How many of your initiatives will be strangled? And, on a personal note, do you think they won’t spend the next four years torturing you with baseless hearings and investigations?

Consider this. You came out of nowhere to win the presiden-

cy. Not an elected official, not a lawyer, not beholden to any particular faction of the swamp. You took on the elites and the media who had long lost touch with average working people. You changed politics, which is something few in American history can say.

If Georgia falls, all that is threatened. You will leave your party out of power, less likely to listen to what you have to say or to capitalize on your successes, such as expanding the Hispanic voting bloc for the GOP.

Democrats will try to write you off as a one-term aberration and, frankly, you’re helping them do it. The King Lear of Mar-a-Lago, ranting about the corruption of the world.

Securing the Senate means securing your legacy. You should use your considerable charm and influence to support the Georgia candidates, mobilizing your voters for them. Focus on their success, not your own grievances, as we head into the final week.

If you insist on spending your final days in office threatening to burn it all down, that will be how you are remembered. Not as a revolutionary, but as the anarchist holding the match.

This editorial was first published in the New York Post.

To curb presidential power, modernize Congress

On Jan. 3, the 117th Congress will convene. It is not clear why.

Presidents make war without congressional involvement. They declare “emergencies,” with Congress’ permission, “repurposing” money for projects Congress did not authorize. The Constitution vests in Congress the power “to regulate commerce with foreign nations,” but Congress has vested presidents with the power to utter “national security,” thereby justifying, for example, tariffs on metal imports from Canada, a military ally. And on washing machines. Really. And the power to disburse billions to compensate farmers for injuries a president inflicts by initiating a trade war. Congress thinks it sets immigration policy, but presidents can substantially alter it by invoking “enforcement discretion.” The Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 requires Congress to pass a budget resolution by April 15, but it rarely does. In eight fiscal years since 2010 it has not passed one. The 12 subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are supposed to draft bills to fund the government’s components and pass them by Sept. 30. Congress has passed all 12 appropriations bills before the end of the fiscal year only four times since 1977. Only about 10 percent of appropriations bills are enacted before the beginning of the fiscal year. In 40 of the past 44 fiscal years, Congress has resorted to continuing resolutions to keep the government open. Since 1977, there have been an average of 4.6 CRs per year. Sixty-four percent of members of the 116th Congress have never served under a regular budget and appropriations process.

Fortunately, the 116th Congress created the 12-member bipartisan Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. Under Chair Derek Kilmer, D-Wash., and Vice Chair Tom Graves, R-Ga., it produced recommendations that could help Congress attract and retain serious members not given to delegating to the executive branch essentially legislative powers.

The size of congressional staff has not kept pace with the growth of congressional business. There are almost 1,500 lobbyists for the pharmaceutical industry, three for every representative. Congress’ parsimony toward itself – the cost of Congress is 0.08 percent of the federal budget – has costs. Staff pay has declined relative to the private sector, so institutional memory suffers as the typical staffer leaves after four or five years. House committee staffs declined about 50 percent between 1991 and 2015. In 1912, Congress set the House’s size at 435 members, one for every 211,000 constituents; after the 2020 census, the average member will have roughly 765,000 constituents. Claims on Congress’ time – policymaking, oversight, etc. – have grown exponentially since 1912, yet Congress is not in session significantly more days than 50 years ago. More than \$300 billion is spent annually on “zombie” programs Congress has not reauthorized for years.

Since the 1940s, the number of bills passed per Congress has decreased while the average number of pages per bill has increased. Since fiscal 2012, no standalone appropriations bill has been signed into law. Gigantic omnibus bills, burying controversial appropriations among those that are crucial (e.g., defense), give members the choice of all or nothing. Members always choose all.

The parties’ leaders have displaced committees in shaping legislation: In the 113th Congress (2013-2015) 40 percent of major legislation reached the House floor without a committee report. Most members are thereby marginalized, lack occasions for developing relationships across the aisle, become insular and focus grimly on reelection to their unsatisfying jobs. So, the members who linger in a curdled Congress are the least admirable: They don’t care that they don’t matter.

A few, like Kilmer and Graves, do. Their report’s most controversial proposal is the return of “earmarks” – member-directed spending that the report gives the anodyne label “community-focused grants.” The report’s reasoning is that members know better than executive branch decisionmakers what their districts need. But the most important reason for forthrightly embracing pork is that legislative bargaining is healthy because the alternative is the majority discouraging heterodox views within its ranks and treating the minority as irrelevant. Bargaining is additive: Support for A, B and C is purchased by including D, E and F. This is a tolerable transaction cost of democracy.

In 1789, there were three executive agencies: the departments of State, Treasury and War. Today, the report’s most stunning sentence says: “While there is no official inventory of federal agencies, one recent count puts the current total at 278 distinct agencies.” So, Congress is not even certain of the components of, and hence cannot meaningfully control, the agglomeration of bureaucracies it has created. Modernization might begin by counting.

George Will’s email address is georgewill@washpost.com.

George Will



It’s crunch time at your food bank

This is crunch time. We have multiple Tailgate Distributions in several counties planned for this week and next. Eleven schools in our region connected to The Big Idea, our school-based initiative got food last week and 20 more will get food this week. Over the next two weeks, 11 Senior Safety Net sites, which address senior food insecurity, will be getting food delivered to them. Countless numbers of our over 100 Agency Partners are ordering up and will also be receiving over 6,000 cases of government food commodities from us. Our warehouse team along with their managers are busy picking orders, receiving and loading multiple tractor-trailers and box trucks. Our drivers continue to step up as well, whether it’s getting food picked up or delivered with usually a narrow window of time to make it happen. You might think all this is just because of the holidays and sounds a little chaotic to you, but this is where we have lived since mid-March. Crunch time has now extended to about nine months and counting.

At the same time, we are busy addressing the finishing touches for the installation of new street signage that can be seen from the highway. We were able to get these two great signs donated to us from two different businesses that were making big changes in their properties. We have connected with a company

that deals with solar panels so both signs will be solar-powered. We’re excited about the new visibility and ease at which volunteers and truck drivers will now be able to find our warehouse.

Our food supply is on a high-point for this moment in time, but that can easily change quickly over the next two weeks. Without the continuation of the USDA-supplied food that we have distributed over the last nine months, the first quarter of 2021 could become very sketchy. A state-wide conference call this morning with Indiana food banks, several state agencies and other hunger-relief providers referenced that the need for food assistance is up 60 percent over last year and the food supply from the feds will be down 50 percent after Jan. 1, 2021. This puts a lot of pressure on an already stressed national food supply chain that generates most of our donations either through Feeding America, our national affiliate or through local food companies with any backlog of inventory.

We have to continue to look at this picture with a lot of faith. We are not a faith-based organization, but we have a lot of faith-filled people who are part of our team. That’s very uplifting to me as one of the leaders in the organization. We are continuing to plan for new out-reach opportunities that will begin to be rolled out before the end of this month. One of the new target areas is identifying locations away from the county seats for our new Small Communities Distribution. This will hopefully address

some of the under the radar communities that are under-resourced in every county. Many food-insecure families living in rural communities simply can’t make it to the county seat when we schedule our massive Tailgate Distribution and may also be without a local food pantry. We are now identifying in every county of our service area some potential sites where the population will probably be less than 2,500 to partner with a local church or other organization in addressing local needs for food assistance. This doesn’t require a tractor-trailer, but a box truck to get the food where it need to go. It doesn’t require twenty volunteers either, but more like four. Its neighbors helping neighbors in a small town.

And then there’s you, the general public, who have certainly stepped up in a huge way to provide the necessary financial assistance it takes to make all this happen. You have responded to the need, sometimes dramatically, and thousands of families who struggle are getting by just a bit better because you chose to make a difference for someone you will probably never meet. On behalf of them and our team, we want to say thank you.

Tim Kean is the president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana. The Second Harvest Food Bank network of 95-member agencies, programs, 15 senior sites and 35 schools provide relationship building and food assistance to more than 65,000 low-income people facing daily instability in Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, Randolph and Wabash counties.

Homes for Rent

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Special Complete
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or non running
car, truck or van
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Legals

SECTION 00 11 13 - NOTICE TO BIDDERS
BY THE OWNER Wabash County,
IN Board of Commissioners
FOR Wabash County Highway Department
Highway Garage Improvements
AT Wabash County Highway Department
800 Manchester Avenue
Wabash, Indiana 46992
UNTIL January 18, 2021 at 9:00 am at the
Wabash County Auditor's Office
Bids received after that time will be returned
unopened.
BID OPENING Sealed Bids will thereafter be
publicly opened and read aloud at the Board of
Commissioners Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
All work for this Project will be under a single
prime contract with the Owner based on bids
received as defined in the Project Manual and
Contract Documents.
Scope of Work includes construction of an 887
s.f. office build-out within the northeast corner
of the existing Wabash County Highway De-
partment Garage building. Work includes in-
stallation of insulated concrete slab and side-
walk, wood framing of office shell and interior
partitions, new windows and aluminum en-
trance doors, gypsum drywall installation with
thermal insulation, metal siding and trim, new
flooring, suspended ceilings, doors and frames
and painting interior and exterior of addition,
new electrical power, lighting, data and con-
nection to existing emergency generator
power; new HVAC and plumbing systems.
Work also involved the removal of existing in-
dustrial steel sash windows and masonry along
south side of building and infill with new metal
siding, over wood framing and thermal insula-
tion under new metal liner panel with residen-
tial style windows and other Work indicated in
the Contract Documents.
All bids must be submitted on prescribed State
Board of Accounts Form No. 96 together with
all the proper forms included in the specifica-
tions Section 00 41 13, the entire set of which
shall be filed intact as a bid. Bidders must sub-
mit their Employer Identification Number on the
Bid Form. In the absence of an E.I.N. they
must submit their Social Security Number.
Contract Documents are available for pur-
chase from ARC Document Solutions, email
fortwayne.orders@e-arc.com; the cost is non-
refundable and only complete sets will be is-
sued. Contract Documents are on file and may
be examined at the following locations:
OFFICE OF THE ARCHITECT:
DLZ Indiana, LLC
2211 E. Jefferson Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46615
Contact: John T. Kirk, AIA
Ph: (574) 236-4400
OWNER:
Wabash County Commissioners
1 W. Hill St. Suite 103
Wabash, IN 46992
Ph: (260) 563-0661
PLAN ROOM:
ARC Document Solutions
445 Fernhill Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46805
www.e-arc.com/in/fortwayne
Ph: (260) 483-8066
BID SECURITY: Each bidder shall accompany
their sealed proposal with the proper bid secu-
rity made payable to the Board of Commission-
ers of Wabash County, Indiana, as follows:
Any person, firm, or corporation who submits a
proposal and has a principal place of business
in the State of Indiana MUST submit a BOND
in the amount equal to ten percent (10%) of
their total bid amount (inclusive of all addi-
tives). Any person, firm, or corporation
who submits a Bid and DOES NOT have a
principal place of business in the State of Indi-
ana MUST file with their bid a CERTIFIED
CHECK, BANK DRAFT, CASHIER'S CHECK,
or MONEY ORDER issued by a financial institu-
tion insured by an agency of the United
States, made payable to the Treasurer of Wa-
bash County, Indiana.
The successful bidder will be required to fur-
nish Contract Performance and Payment
Bonds for 100% of their contract amount with-
in ten (10) days after award of the contract.
Bonds shall be maintained in accordance with
IC 36-1-12-13.1 and 36-1-12-14. Bonds shall
be in full force and effect for a period of at least
12 months after the date of final completion of
the Contract. Should the contractor's bonding
company give notice of cancellation; the con-
tractor will be responsible for securing new
bonds prior to termination.
Bids may be held by the Board of Commission-
ers for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days
from the date of bid opening; no Contractor
may withdraw their proposal within that time.
The Board of Commissioners reserves the
right to reject any or all proposals, to waive
technicalities or irregularities therein, to delete
any bid item or items and to award a contract
on the proposal that in their judgment is most
advantageous to Wabash County.
A non-mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be
held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 1:00
pm local time. All prospective bidders are
strongly encouraged to attend. The Pre-Bid
meeting will be held at the project site: Wa-
bash County Highway Department, 800
Manchester Ave., Wabash, Indiana 46992.
Representatives of the Owner and Architect
will be present to discuss construction se-
quence, bidding requirements, Contractor work
and storage areas, and requirements for Con-
tractor's personnel.
PUBLISHED
December 23, 2020
December 30, 2020
END OF SECTION 00 11 13
HSPAXLP.12/23,12/30/2020

Classifieds Make A Cash Connection!



HOUSE HUNTING?

Watch
For Our
Open House
Ads In The
Classifieds!

Legals

The Noble Twp Advisory Board will meet with
the Noble Twp Trustee at 6:30 pm on Jan. 5,
2021 to review the 2020 financials. The meet-
ing will be held in the Trustee's office located at
4181 S 150 W Wabash.
HSPAXLP.12/30/2020,01/02/2021

Legals

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA
GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2020-85- 18
AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PARKING
ON PUBLIC HIGHWAYS
WHEREAS, under I.C. 8-17-1-40 a county may
adopt an ordinance regulating traffic on any
highway in the county highway system;
WHEREAS, under I.C. 9-21-1 a county may
adopt additional traffic regulations by ordi-
nance with respect to highways under the
County's jurisdiction, including the regulation of
the standing or parking of vehicles;
WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the
health, safety, and general welfare of the cit-
izens of Wabash County to regulate parking in
order to prohibit the obstruction of passage of
vehicles on all public highways within Wabash
County.
IT IS THEREFORE ORDAINED as follows:
For the purposes of this Ordinance, the term
"highway" shall have the same meaning set
forth under I.C. 9-13-2-73, and its amend-
ments, and shall include a public alley in any
unincorporated areas of the County.
For the purposes of this Ordinance, the term
"Vehicle" shall have the same meaning set
forth under I.C. 9-13-2-196, and its amend-
ments.
It shall be unlawful for any person to park,
stop, or leave unattended a vehicle within the
traveled portion of the public right-of-way of
any highway within the County, except when
necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or
to avoid conflict with law enforcement or emer-
gency vehicles, or on the directions of a law
enforcement officer or traffic control device.
It shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct
or place an obstacle within the traveled portion
of the public right-of-way of any highway with-
in the County that impedes or blocks the nor-
mal movement of traffic, except on the direc-
tions of a law enforcement officer or if such ob-
struction or obstacle is a traffic control device.
A person that violates this Ordinance commits
a Class C infraction and shall be subject to a
fine of not less than Twenty Five Dollars
(\$25.00) for the first violation and Fifty Dollars
(\$50.00) for each subsequent violation. Each
act of violation or each day upon which any
such violation shall occur shall constitute a
separate violation.
This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect
after its passage and publication as required
by law.
Adopted this 14th day of DECEMBER , 2020.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONER
OF WABASH COUNTY
/s/Brian K. Haupt
Brian K. Haupt, Chairman
/s/ Barry J. Eppley
Barry J. Eppley
/s/Jeff D. Dawes
Jeff D. Dawes
ATTEST:
/s/Marcie Shepherd
Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Auditor
HSPAXLP.12/23,12/30/2020

SELL YOUR ITEMS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TODAY!



...BECAUSE MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES!

VACCINATIONS

From page A1

following three weeks, Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Dale Lyles said. “The Indiana National Guard has been a tremendous partner for us during this time, helping us screen and enter over 350 test results weekly to provide the (ISDH) the most up-to-date information for their tracking database. We are very thankful for their service and support,” said Craft.

Testing continues at Parkview Wabash

OptumServe will administer free COVID-19 testing from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at Parkview Wabash Hospital “on an on-going basis.” Testing will take place at 8 John Kissinger Drive in the first-floor conference room of the Medical Office Building (MOB) adjoining Parkview Wabash Hospital. Testing site patrons should not use the MOB entrance or enter through the hospital, but instead, enter and exit through the designated entrance between the two buildings. Signage will mark the appropriate entrance, which is

within a few steps of the conference room and testing site. Residents will have to register to schedule an appointment through the Optum/LHI website by visiting <https://lhi.care/covidtesting> or by calling 888-634-1116.

School figures

The ISDH’s school dashboard was updated Monday, Dec. 28 with data as of 11:59 p.m. Friday, Dec. 25. The dashboard is updated weekly at noon Mondays. Statewide, 175 schools reported no cases, 1,886 reported one or more case and 307 have not reported. In Wabash County, only White’s Jr./Sr. High School has reported to the ISDH that they have no cases. During the latest update, Wabash County schools with one or more confirmed cases included: ■ Manchester Jr./Sr. High School (MHS) reported 34 total student positive cases, seven total teacher positive cases and eight total staff positive cases. ■ Manchester Elementary School (MES) reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases. ■ Manchester Intermedi-

ate School (MIS) reported six total student positive cases. ■ Metro North Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases. ■ Heartland Career Center reported fewer than five total staff positive cases. ■ Sharp Creek Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases. ■ Northfield Jr./Sr. High School (NHS) reported 36 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and eight total staff positive cases. ■ O.J. Neighbours Elementary School reported fewer than five total student positive cases, eight total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases. ■ Wabash Middle School reported 10 total student positive cases. ■ Wabash High School reported 10 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases. ■ St. Bernard Elementary School reported fewer than

five total teacher positive cases. ■ Southwood Jr./Sr. High School (SHS) reported 14 total student positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases. ■ Southwood Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

Local figures

On Friday, the ISDH reported 24 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 2,527, with 11,912 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 11.5 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 24.5 percent. On Saturday, the ISDH reported 10 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 2,537, with 11,913 tests. On Sunday, the ISDH reported seven new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 2,544, with 11,925 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 9.6 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 22 percent. On Monday, the ISDH re-

ported 11 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 2,555, with 11,945 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 9.2 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 22.1 percent. On Tuesday, the ISDH reported 18 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 2,574, with 11,970 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 9.1 percent. The total seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 21.7 percent.

Statewide figures

On Tuesday, the ISDH announced that 4,028 additional Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through testing at state and private laboratories. That brings to 500,282 the number of Indiana residents now known to have had the novel coronavirus following corrections to the previous day’s dashboard. A total of 7,703 Hoosiers are confirmed to have died from COVID-19, an increase of 164 from the previous day. Another 348 probable deaths have been reported based on clinical diagnoses in patients for whom no pos-

itive test is on record. Deaths are reported based on when data are received by the state and occurred over multiple days. To date, 2,613,675 unique individuals have been tested in Indiana, up from 2,605,669 on Monday. A total of 5,585,093 tests, including repeat tests for unique individuals, have been reported to the state Department of Health since Feb. 26. In addition to the Wabash site, the IISDH will offer free COVID-19 testing from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday; and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday at: ■ Boy Scout Building, Riley Park, 101 Riley Road, Delphi. ■ Huntingburg Event Center, 110 E. 14th St., Huntingburg. ■ Church of Christ gymnasium, 430 5th St., Rising Sun. ■ Warren County Fairgrounds, 408 Indiana 28, Williamsport.

To find testing sites around the state, visit www.coronavirus.in.gov and click on the COVID-19 testing information link. Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.



Provided photos

The drive ended up serving approximately 349 children and 132 families.

TOY DRIVE

From page A1

Till said the families were given 10 points per child to shop with inside. Each item in the drive was valued at a certain number of points. “I said, ‘Pretend that’s dollars. Everything is marked. Everything has a point value. Bring back what you have and we’ll check you out.’ I think people really, really enjoyed that,” said Till. “They were coming in. They could pick out what they wanted for their kids.” Till said they even issued unopened wrapping paper to the families at the end. “A lot of people were grateful for that,” said Till. “Wrapping paper is an added expense that you don’t really think about when you get Christmas presents.” Till said from there, volunteers helped people out to their vehicles. “They carried packages and boxes so their kids wouldn’t see it,” said Till.

The backstory

Till said the origins of the toy drive date back to when she was introduced to former Our Children Our Future director Pat Lynn. After Lynn had retired from her role, the organization was handed over to Youth Services Bureau of Wabash County, which had been located at the Old Wabash City Hall at 111 S. Wabash St. That organization is now defunct and the doors were locked several years ago after leans were placed on the property by the Indiana Department of Revenue. When the building was opened up, the city put Lynn in charge of distributing all their assets to other non-profits, since they couldn’t be sold due to their bylaws. “She called several different places in town and they had come and gotten what they wanted and needed, but the one which remained was these toys,” said Till. “It all trickled down to us.” Till said when they toured



Each family was assigned 10 points per child, and each item inside was marked with a certain point value.

the building, there was boxes and boxes of toys just sitting in the basement. “It went all the way up to the ceiling. It was just a massive amount. Brand new toys still in their boxes and some of them were still gift wrapped,” said Till. “Just gorgeous, expensive toys.” Till said they planned to use the toys to stock the shelves of Babe of Wabash County, which plans to open to support local families in the coming weeks. But, Till said she was informed many others in the community were having trouble affording gifts for their children this year. So, the job of moving the bounty began. “We got a group of people together. Our job was to haul all the toys out of the building, get them to Babe and get them set up,” said Till. From there, Till said local families in need were contacted through organizations including FISH of Wabash County, Access Youth Center and the Lighthouse Mission. “They got busy and man did they deliver,” said Till. “They sent them over to Babe.”

Replenishing supplies

Till said right away, they were “just slammed.” On Monday alone, they served 80 families. The rest of them came throughout the week. “Our toy supply had di-

minished significantly. By Wednesday evening we didn’t have much at all,” said Till. “We knew that if we didn’t get more donations we weren’t going to make it to Thursday.” Till said she put a call out on Facebook and on the radio on Monday because she “knew we were in trouble.” Till said people brought additional donations Thursday as a result. Also, Till said FISH of Wabash County director Janet Shoue, who volunteered at the drive Tuesday, had connections with the Fort Wayne Toys for Tots effort. On Wednesday, Toys for Tots donating their leftover toys to the Wabash County drive. “They don’t have storage room and they don’t want to throw it away,” said Till. “(We) met them halfway and they delivered four boxes of toys and a large bag of stuffed animals. It literally filled the store right back up. It was beautiful. We had just the right amount of toys to give out to people.” Till said they just made it to the end of the drive because out of 75 boxes that had been in the Old Wabash City Hall building, only a few had been damaged. “That in itself is a miracle. They sat for eight years,” said Till. Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

WEATHER

From page A1

higher precipitation incident. However, later in the week, the mix of ice, sleet, rain and snow could create problems for those on the road. “There could some ponding in the roadways,” said Marsili. An additional storm later in the week would bring an additional “wintry mix possib(ly) Thursday night which may impact travel for the Friday morning commute.” Marsili said at their climate site in Fort Wayne, they had observed the South Bend site was closer to normal in terms of seasonal averages for tem-

perature and precipitation. “Fort Wayne is running a bit of defect,” said Marsili. The precipitation for the season sits at 1.3 inches in Fort Wayne. The normal is about 7.5 inches. Marsili said the temperatures were “on the warm side” at about 3.9 degrees on average above normal.

Wabash County prepares roadways

Earlier this month, Wabash County Highway Department supervisor Cole Wyatt said they were anticipating several changes, including the addition of a spray truck to pre-treat the roadways before the snow falls. Wyatt said they would focus on primary roads as

well as select trouble spots around the county with this application. Wyatt said the amount of salt they plan to use will not be decreased. Wyatt said despite their best efforts, some residents’ mailboxes may be damaged by the blades of passing snow plows. “The county will address damage to a residents mailbox only if the plow makes direct contact with the mailbox,” said Wyatt. “If the damage is a result of snow being thrown from the plow impacting the mailbox the responsibility will be the homeowners.” Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

You can postpone the birthday party.



But don't put off your health care.

Many things have been postponed because of the pandemic, but your health care shouldn't be delayed. Routine screenings and annual wellness exams can help identify health issues in the earliest stages, when they are most treatable. Our providers are committed to helping you stay well. We are taking extra precautions to provide a safe and clean environment and offer both in-person and telehealth appointments.

Make your health a priority and schedule an appointment today.

LutheranPCPDocs.com 833-303-1414

